ホリズム
aphorism
APHORISM CHAPTER 31
CLEANS: KUROHANEKO
TRANSLATION: DRAGON LEGEND
PROOFREAD: PKNOCTIS
TYPESET: KUROHANEKO
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CHAPTER 31: "BLOOD"
Two hopes that can never be breached
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AS YAMA LISTENS IN ON THE TWINS, WHAT IS HE THINKING...?!
...THIS ISN'T QUITE RIGHT
BEEP BEEP BEEP
FOUND ANYTHING, NANTO?
THIS IS JUST CHINESE POETRY.
BEEP
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
BZZZZZT
AH—
AH— AH—

BEEP
WORKING HARD, AREN'T YOU?
MY TWIN ASSEMBLY.
"ASSEMBLY"? FOR US TWINS?
HMM... IS THE USAGE RATHER ODD?
WELL, NOT THAT IT MATTERS.
I JUST WANTED TO INFORM YOU TWO OF SOMETHING YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING...
OF COURSE USING "ASSEMBLY" FOR JUST US IS ODD.
YOU USE "ASSEMBLY" FOR MANY PEOPLE
LIKE I SAID. THAT HARDLY MATTERS HERE.
YOU TWO ARE RATHER PICKY, AREN'T YOU.

I'M HERE..
ABOUT THIS.
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT?
.....
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
EXPLAIN YOURSELF.
GO ON, SAY SOMETHING.
IS IT THE "BOOK OF LIVES"?
HEY, HOLD ON, HOW COME YOU KNOW THAT I'M LOOKING FOR IT?
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT THAT I WAS SEARCHING FOR IT?
BECAUSE I WAS WATCHING YOU BOYS FROM HERE.
...AM I GOING TO HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU?
IT'S WHAT YOU BOYS ARE SO DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR...
you rude boys
HUH...?

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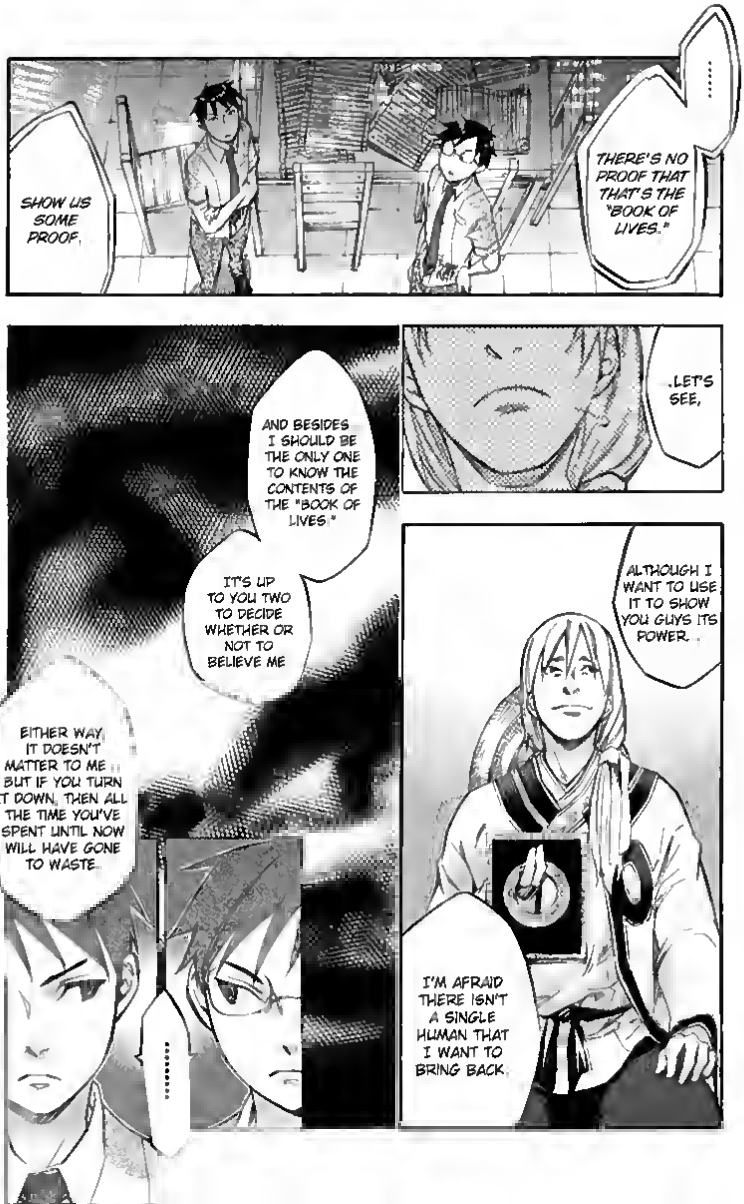
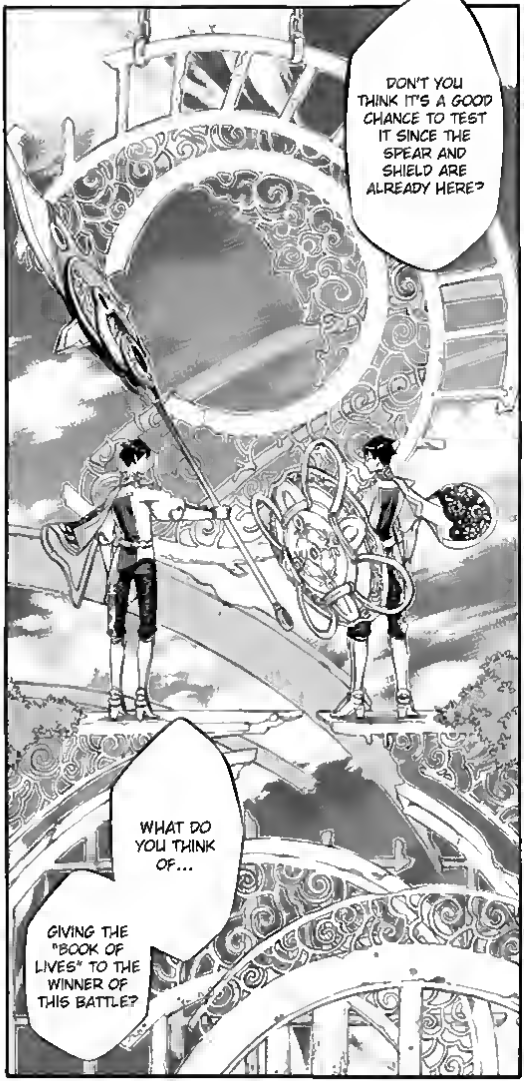
I'VE BEEN KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU TWO SINCE THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY...
BECAUSE DAY AFTER DAY IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR A BOOK.
AND THEN, I BEGAN TO FEEL SORRY FOR YOU BOTH.
PERV-ERT.
AH...
SO YOU'RE ON THE SAME PAGE WITH THAT.
Not that it matters—
SO OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF MY HEART, I'VE DECIDED TO LEND A HAND.
IF YOU BOYS WANT,
I CAN HAND THIS OVER TO YOU TWO


SHOW US SOME PROOF.
THERE'S NO PROOF THAT THAT'S THE "BOOK OF LIVES."
.....
.LET'S SEE,
ALTHOUGH I WANT TO USE IT TO SHOW YOU GUYS ITS POWER.
I'M AFRAID THERE ISN'T A SINGLE HUMAN THAT I WANT TO BRING BACK.
AND BESIDES I SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE TO KNOW THE CONTENTS OF THE "BOOK OF LIVES."
IT'S UP TO YOU TWO TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO BELIEVE ME
EITHER WAY, IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME ; BUT IF YOU TURN IT DOWN, THEN ALL THE TIME YOU'VE SPENT UNTIL NOW WILL HAVE GONE TO WASTE.
.....

HOWEVER ...THERE'S ONE CONDITION
SINCE AT LEAST YOU'RE BEING DIRECT ABOUT IT
VERY WELL
GIVE IT HERE
HAND IT OVER
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE STORY OF "CONTRADICTION"?
IN THE COUNTRY OF CHU, A CERTAIN MERCHANT WAS SELLING SHIELDS AND SPEARS. ONE WAS A "SHIELD THAT COULD NEVER BE PIERCED."
AND THE OTHER WAS A "SPEAR THAT COULD PIERCE ANYTHING." OR SO HE SAID.
WELL... SOMETHING LIKE THAT ANYWAYS
IT'S A WELL-KNOWN TALE.
HM?
SO WHAT? YOUR POINT?
THE STORY USUALLY ENDS AFTER RAISING THE QUESTION ABOUT THE CONTRADICTION, RIGHT?


DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD CHANCE TO TEST IT SINCE THE SPEAR AND SHIELD ARE ALREADY HERE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF...
GIVING THE "BOOK OF LIVES" TO THE WINNER OF THIS BATTLE?

BUT I, ON THE OTHER HAND...
I WANT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS *AFTER-WARDS*.

SO WHAT WILL IT BE?
AND BY THE WINNER, I MEAN OF COURSE.
THE ONE WHO SURVIVES.
YOU WILL BE PUTTING YOUR VERY LIVES ON THE LINE, FOR THE SAKE OF VICTORY.
WILL YOU DO IT?
OR NO?

...FOR KAHO'S SAKE.
盾
Shield
矛
Spear

COME,
NANTO.

I MEAN, I GET WHAT SHE'S SAYING, BUT
...SO CHEESY
YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE, ALRIGHT? IT'S FINE JUST DOING THINGS THE WAY YOU WERE DOING.
TAP...
TAP...
TAP...
TAP...
TAP...
TAP...
TAP...
TAP...
...HMM?
TAP...
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No, only the data here is missing
BUT WHY?
IS IT AN ERROR?
WHAT?
HEISEI YEAR 38 NARAKA DEFENSE REPORT
HEISEI YEAR 39 NARAKA DEFENSE REPORT
HEISEI YEAR 40 NARAKA DEFENSE REPORT
HEISEI YEAR 41 NARAKA DEFENSE REPORT
HEISEI YEAR 42 NARAKA DEFENSE REPORT
THAT'S 9 YEARS AGO..
HEISEI 39*...
*HEISEI 39 = YEAR 2027
I REMEMBER IT FROM SOMETHING RECENTLY WASN'T IT INVOLVED IN SOME KIND OF INCIDENT?
YEAR 39..
OH YEAH..

IT'S THE YEAR WHEN TOMONAGA'S OLDER BROTHER ENTERED THE SCHOOL...!!!
BEEP
IS IT POSSIBLE TO RESTORE IT ?
.....
IT'S NO USE IT WAS DELIBERATELY ERASED
BUT WHY...? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN 9 YEARS AGO?
WHAT ?
SO HIS OLDER BROTHER ALSO CAME HERE?
SIS ...?

ON SCREEN: TOMONAGA IZURU
BEEP
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE INCIDENT INVOLVING TOMONAGA?
CLACK CLACK
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER TOMONAGA DIED
!
BEEP BEEP
HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

IS SIS THERE?
TH DIRECTOR IS CURRE-NTLY OUT
TAP
I'M BACK
WHAT IS IT?
I HAVE TO HEAD TO A MEETING SOON.
IS IT URGENT?
ALL OF THE DATA FROM HEISEI YEAR 39 ARE COMPLETELY GONE
WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH,
IS THAT SO?
TWIRL
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED

ARE YOU KEEPING SOMETHING FROM ME, SIS?
HEY
WE SHOULD REALLY WORK ON RESTORING IT, HMM?
OF COURSE THERE'S MANY THINGS I DON'T TELL YOU. I CAN'T JUST RECKLESSLY TELL YOU EVERYTHING, NOW CAN I?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. I'M ASKING IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE TELLING ME!!!
LIKE ABOUT TOMONAGA.
TOMONAGA?
YOU WERE ACTING STRANGELY WHEN YOU SAW THE DATA ON HIS OLDER BROTHER
AND HOW COME THERE'S NOT EVEN A SINGLE WRITTEN REPORT WHEN THAT INCIDENT CAUSED SUCH A MESS HERE AT THE SCHOOL?
WAS THERE A REASON WHY YOU COULDN'T WRITE IT?

A BOLT OF LIGHTNING STRUCK HERE LAST TIME.
REMEMBER WHEN IT BLACKED OUT AND COULDN'T CONNECT FOR A MOMENT?
WELL, IT KIND OF DAMAGED PART OF THE DATA AT THE TIME.
...AH
I REMEMBER NOW.
THE LIGHTNING
HUH?
OF COURSE NOT.
LOOK, I'VE ALREADY GOT MY HANDS FULL SETTING UP COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST YAMA, SO THE WRITE-UP'S JUST BEEN PUSHED BACK A BIT...
WE RESTORED MOST OF IT IN A RUSH, AND I GUESS WE MISSED THAT AREA
I'LL BE SURE TO TELL THEM TO FIX IT SO IT SHOULD BE ALRIGHT.

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BECAUSE OF THE LIGHTNING
WHETHER YOU BUY IT OR NOT,
THAT'S ALL THAT HAPPENED.
AS IF I'D BUY AN EXCUSE LIKE THAT!!
THIS WAS ERASED DELIBERATELY, THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING...
THE DATA DISAPPEARED
IT'LL BE FIXED SOON
SO JUST FOCUS ON YOUR OWN DUTIES
.....

BZT
DIRE-CTOR ....
AAH ....
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE D.T.... MOST OF IT HAS ALREADY BEEN....
THE BARE BONES OF IT ARE STILL AROUND.
JUST COMBINE IT WITH THE RECORDS IN THE SUPPLY ROOM.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE EVERYTHING A READABLE SUMMARY WOULD BE
THAT KID'S ENOUGH PRETTY PERSISTENT AFTER ALL....
UNDER-STOOD, MA'AM.
I'LL LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS THEN.

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